

Also in this section:
Marion Dunn B3
Landers B4



1939 photo courtesy Terry Bohle Montague

LDS German missionaries evacuate in 1939 prior to war

In early 1939 the following missionaries were in the German mission: (Local people are in boitrace type)
First Row: Warren P. Kirk, Roland H. Rose, Willard B. Doxey, Reed Oldroyd, George Kuhn, Louis J. Haws, J. Richard Barnes, Richard E. J. Frandsen, O. Ken Earl, Wesley F. Knudsen, Darrell S. Robins, Elmer R. Tueller, Whitney D. Hammond, Sylvan Burgi, Myron I. Seamons.
Second Row: Lydia Heibel, Elfriede Marach, Ilse Kramer, Katherine Riegler, Nikolaus Riegler, R. Keith Parker, Calvin Bartholomew, Vern L. Marrott, Sister Evelyn Wood (later the creator of the Reading Dynamics Program), President M. Douglas Wood, George R. Blake, A. Burt Horsley, Ilse Brunger, Nephi H. Duerbs, Wilfred Wegener, Grant A. Brown, June Hickman, Wilford W. Woolf.
Third Row: Weldon M. Mathis, Erna Rosenhan, Grace Olsen, Hildegard Heimburg, Elwood Scoville, Donald Petty, H. Christian Pieper, T. Paxman Martin, Geren V. Howell, Harold E. Kratzer, Don V. Gubler.

John W. Dean, Osmond L. Harline, Robert Kunkel, Earl M. Fuhrman, Clark Hillam, R. Larkin Glade.
Fourth Row: Woodrow C. Dennett, Grant W. Baker, Grant Weber, Norman Seibold, Ellis T. Rasmussen, Paul S. Nicholes, Douglas Thompson, Arnold Hildebrandt, Claytor Larson, Shirl H. Swenson, Frank Knott, Emil Fetzer, Horace G. Moser, Clarence Beuhner, George Gould, Joseph Wirthlin, Lawrence J. Meyer, Edward Wirthlin.
Fifth Row: Donald R. Anderson, T. Frank Swallow, H. Clive Kimball, Albert Beutler, Alfred W. Alder, John H. Wells, Ferylle McOmber, Dwayne Ward, Ben G. Lasrich, Edward Mabey, Harry Niebuhr, Eugene S. Hilton, Leland B. Blatter, Ernest Stettler, J. Robert Gillespie, Vernon Sorenson.
Sixth Row: Doris E. Black, Erich W. Bauer, Fred H. Duhlmeier, L. John Bingham, George A. Wimmer, J. Ralph Thompson, Stanford Poulson, Dean G. Griner, Howard W. Lyman.

German missionaries experienced a 72-hour exodus out of Germany

Editor's Note: About 175 LDS missionaries were evacuated from Germany 50 years ago at the opening of World War II. While some were imprisoned for a day or two, all ultimately got out safely in one of the most dramatic events to occur in the modern history of the LDS Church. This is the story of two of them:

By RENEE C. NELSON
Herald Lifestyle Editor
Headlines in the German newspaper "Monday" (at left) for Sept. 4, 1939 issue, read:
"WAR WITH ENGLAND"
The leader drives to the war front
The successful advance in the East
Dirschau and Stargard liberated



Burt Horsley and Dick Poll 50 years after their German exodus.

War with Poland broke out several days after LDS missionaries in Germany had received word on Aug. 25, 1939, from President M. Douglas Wood in Denmark to evacuate and leave immediately for Rotterdam, Holland. President Joseph Fielding Smith, who was in western Germany the day before, told the mission president that war was imminent, and he wanted the missionaries out.
Missionary companions Richard Poll and Burt Horsley, now residents of Provo, were among those who received a telegram to this effect.
"The day before we left we had been to an LDS Mission Conference in Hannover and had met with President Smith and his wife Jessie," said Horsley. "On this day we left early on our bikes from Hannover and went to Bremen where we went to the public baths instead of immediately to our apartment. When we got home there was the telegram from Wood telling us to get out of the country by midnight if possible. Germans were about to attack Poland.
The missionaries were told there wasn't much chance to get out of Germany because all the trains were taken over by the military. "But we got on the train anyway," Horsley related.
"We were the first BYU to the border," said the retired BYU pro-

essor. "When we got there, we had to give up what we had in money except for 10 marks (\$2.50).
"Then, when we got to the Dutch border we were arrested for vagrancy because we had only 10 marks."
They finally got permission to make one phone call to President Murdoch at The Hague, Holland. (See photo inside) "We were told that we weren't ready for us." The mission president said he couldn't do anything for them and to go back into Bremen (Germany) and see what their president (Wood) wanted them to do. Unknown to LDS Church officials at the time, the Dutch government had created a new policy forbidding refugees in Holland. So when the evacuating missionaries arrived at the Dutch border they were told they must return to Germany.
"We had to make a phone call to Frankfurt to get more money," Horsley said. "The operator there at customs and the post office said there wasn't much chance because all lines were tied up with the military. After waiting several hours the operator motioned for us to go to a booth. He had a line through and I could make one call."
Horsley called the mission office where mission secretary Richard Barnes answered.
"Barnes said they were just leaving, but the mission president had authorized us to receive money by wire — 80 marks (\$20).
They were told to watch for other missionaries, which they did. "I went up and down the train platform, each time a train came in from the German interior, whistling 'Do What Is Right,' because I thought it was one of the most familiar LDS hymns." (Others used this same method in rounding up German missionaries.)
Finally, a train came in with four elders aboard. "They handed their luggage out the window and we were thus able to intercept them before they went on into Holland to face the same problem we had," he said.
"Since the four elders had only 10 marks apiece, we pooled the 80 and 40 marks (\$30) and bought tickets (See GERMAN, Page B2)

German newspaper clipping titled 'Kriegszustand mit England' (War with England) from 'Der Tag' newspaper, dated September 4, 1939. The headline reads 'Der Führer fährt an die Front' (The Führer goes to the front).

1939 newspaper clipping courtesy Ellis Rasmussen



A. Burt Horsley and Richard D. Poll take train from Germany to Holland in 1939 only to return.

Missionaries mark 50th anniversary of their evacuation from Germany

August 25, 26 and 27, 1989, marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most dramatic events to occur in the modern history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
On that August weekend in 1939, as Hitler was marching thousands of Nazi soldiers into Poland, president of the church, Heber J. Grant, sent word to the East and West German Missions to evacuate all American missionaries out of that country. The East German missionaries were to go to Denmark while the 82 West German missionaries were to flee into Holland.
Unknown to LDS Church officials at the time, the Dutch government had created a new policy forbidding refugees in Holland. When the evacuating missionaries arrived at the Dutch border, they were told they must return to Germany.
By German law, no one leaving the country could take with them more than 10 Reichmarks, about

\$2.50. Most of the missionaries found themselves on the Dutch border with no money and no way to the only open border, Denmark. When they tried telephoning the West German Mission Office in Frankfurt to ask for further instructions, the operators told them only priority military calls were being put through.
One missionary, A. Burt Horsley, (local man) was at last successful in reaching Mission President M. Douglas Wood. Wood told Horsley to wait at the border and someone from the mission office would bring enough money to ensure that the stranded missionaries could get north to Denmark. President Wood sent a former member of the University of Utah football team, Norman Seibold.
Seibold knew that at least 25 West German missionaries were stranded, but since they were scattered along the Dutch border he had no

idea where to look. In the Cologne railway station Seibold got off his train and walked up and down the platform looking for the missionaries. At that time the station was crowded with Jews, desperate to get out of the country, and Nazi soldiers being transported to Poland. Seibold jumped up on a baggage cart and whistled the first four notes of the LDS hymn "De What is Right." Seven of the stranded missionaries appeared from the crowd. The group traveled together to the Dutch border, and using the same method of whistling the hymn in railway stations, found all the lost missionaries.
Then the Nazi government announced that it would no longer guarantee any civilian his destination. All trains were to be commandeered for troop transport.
Determined to get to Denmark, the missionaries sneaked aboard trains and hopped moving ones.

They were offered 17 trains and arrested twice. It took them three days to get from the Dutch border to Denmark. Eating that time they had little to eat and almost no sleep.
In Denmark, the East and West German missionaries were loaded aboard converted cargo ships. They crossed the Atlantic in some of the worst weather of the century, dodging mines and being followed by Nazi U-boats.
At one point President Wood asked one of the missionaries if he were anxious about going home on a freighter and piloted through the mines by a German. The missionary answered, "That is child's play after the things we went through in getting out of Germany. I don't think after all the trouble the Lord went to there He is going to let us down in the middle of the ocean."



A. Burt Horsley makes one phone call to Dutch LDS Mission President Murdoch following his arrest at the Dutch border.

Reproduction of a Danish newspaper page titled 'POLITIKEN' and 'KRIGEN erklæret' (The war is declared). The text discusses the declaration of war and mentions Chamberlain's radio speech.

Interpretation of Danish newspaper



Telegram from scrapbook of Richard D. Poll.

GERMAN:

(Continued from Page B1) for all of us back to Bremen."
Then they met up with four more missionaries, according to Poll. "So we bought 10 tickets to Lubeck where one of the elders had left there. When the elder returned, we had enough combined funds to buy tickets for the 10 of us and we were joined by two more missionaries en route to Copenhagen." (The only other open boarded on the train. "We were told there was no room," said Horsley, "but we sneaked aboard and stood or sat on suitcases in the train entrance way most of the trip."
Upon their arrival in Copenhagen, he and Poll had been 72 hours with little or no sleep. Only two other west German missionaries had arrived before the 12 of them, though all of the east German missionaries were then accounted for. This was just four days prior to the outbreak of the War on Sept. 1, 1939.
Poll's hometown paper — the Fort Worth Star Telegram — noted that he was "the first Texan ever to become a Mormon missionary in Europe." (He is also a former BYU professor.) After only seven weeks in Germany, Poll had made his exit "with only one frequently laundered shirt and the suit he wore on fleeing Bremen," according to the newspaper. (He had yet arrived in Germany when the group photo was taken.)
"All I brought with me (in his exodus from Germany) was my briefcase full of books and papers and June's bag with all sorts of breakable articles, wrapped up in dirty laundry. All my clothes are in Holland," Poll reported in a letter to his mother.
The account of Horsley's evacuation from Germany is written up in part in the Doctoral Dissertation of Gilbert W. Scharffe who came under his tutelage at Brigham Young University during its preparation. This was later published as "Mormonism in Germany."
A book, chronicling the detailed events of the West German Mission Evacuation of 1939, written by Terry Bohle Montague and published by Ken Earl Publications, will be available sometime later this year.

Advertisement for Temple Cases, featuring 'The Welsh national flower is the leek' and 'LUGGAGE PLUS'.

Advertisement for Diet Center, featuring 'Diet Center 176' and 'WEIGHT LOSS'.

Advertisement for Challenger Schools, featuring 'TEACHERS WHO CARE A LOT...' and a photo of a teacher.